

New York and Courier.

BOUTELLE & BURR, PROPRIETORS.

A. B. BOUTELLE, Editor.

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24, 1887.

A Case of Gross Injustice.

It is gratifying to find that the spirit of fair play which leads the American people to demand knowledge of both sides of a controversy before rendering final judgment has asserted itself in regard to the recent attempt of the Navy Department to discredit and humiliate one of the oldest and most distinguished officers in the service. We can think of no more glaring violation of all the official proprieties than the use of the Associated Press to advertise on both sides of the Atlantic the Secretary Whittle's not over dignified rebuke to the Admiral of our Navy squadron then in Canadian waters.

A similar treatment of any diplomatic representative of our government having much less important and delicate duties than those of the commander of our naval forces at the present time in the vicinity of the fisheries would bring down upon a State Department that should indulge in it a swift and emphatic public censure and we are not surprised to find the press of other countries manifesting the astonishment that is felt at such public reflection upon the course of an officer of sufficient eminence to be entrusted with the command of our principal naval force.

Following closely upon the public sense of the impropriety of such ostentatious reproof of a veteran officer in the face of his command and of the foreign people whose ports he was visiting, has come the conviction that the rebuke was as unjustified as it was ungracious and demagogic.

It is out of the tissue of sensational newspaper reports and departmental misrepresentations there has gradually evolved the spin fact that when I will not instead of doing or saying anything to the detriment of the rights of our hardy fishermen was engaged in rendering them an important service their appreciation of which has in various ways found expression. What the Admiral did was to turn from the principal officer of the Canadian Fishery Service a statement of the Canadian version of the rights of fishing fishermen in their ports and of the regulation which it is the intention of the Canadian authorities to enforce against our vessel. This information has been carried by the night Washington by our fishermen and the representatives of our fishing interest who have worded of effect to bring it from our own Government a clear statement of their rights or to gain a mix of protection and who prefer to avoid the possible risks of seizures and penalties the prospect of relief from which through any action of our Government appears so extremely remote.

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We know from the public documents of Mr. Whittle of the Portland Fishery Association and from numerous other authorized representatives of our fishing interests that they are grateful to the Admiral for the service of discovering for them what the Canadians propose to do as against our vessels. While our Government is taking such a liberal amount of time to determine whether our fishermen have any rights that it is bound to protect, it is worth something to know what the claims and purposes of the Canadians are. If our Government will not remove the dangers it is desirable to have them defined on a chart so that they can at least be avoided. The owner of a little fishing vessel cannot very well afford to take upon himself the burden of an international controversy in which his own Government interests very little interest and it would seem that our authorities might at least ascertain and point out the danger line as construed by the other side.

Admiral I will cut the Gordian knot of the red tape that has equally prevented our Executive Government from making up its own mind as to whether our fisherman have any rights and from furnishing any information as to the conditions and circumstances under which our vessels are liable under the Canadian construction, to be seized and subjected to penalties. That he thus rendered a public service entirely consistent with his duty as an officer and his zeal for the honor and welfare of his country, has become recognized as soon and as widely as the facts have been made known, and in the same measure has increased the feeling of disapproval of the remarkable action of the Secretary in administering such a report through the public press to an officer who has spent almost half a century in the honorable service of his country.

No service can maintain *esprit de corps* and proper discipline if those in most responsible positions are liable to such public disapprovement. We do not see how Admiral I will cut with self-respect do otherwise than request to be relieved from the command in which the Department had so publicly sought to discredit him, and we do not believe that Secretary Whittle will have an opportunity to render a more important service to the Navy than by a frank and manly reparation of the injustice to an officer whose experience and accomplishments had obtained recognition among the navies of the world before the present ambitious head of the Department was old enough to vote the Democratic ticket.

George William Curtis and Senator Voorhees, the one a pretended reformer, the other an out spoken spokesman, are both very sure that President Cleveland will again be the candidate of the party, and the latter pretends to think that Cleveland has a dead open and shut on the election. Of the two men the Senator is the most consistent and honest, for, believing in the spoils, he points to the record of Cleveland as affording a complete justification for his support, while Mr. Curtis, who lays claim to the name of reformer, has confessed that the President's administration has been of a most partisan character. The difference between the two is that one is his own master while the other does the bidding of his employers even to the extent of absolute subservi-

The New York World has the honesty to admit that the late vote "does not need to be very great to hold a serious menace to the party now in control of the State." The vote of Mr. George in New York furnishes abundant proof of the fact that he is a sharp organizer.

It must make Higgins' tried to see his name so much in print—*Boston Herald*. Not so tires as it does the Mugwumps. Indeed the latter are so tired of them that they have removed the standing line "Higgins must go" from the columns of their papers having become pretty well assured by this time that the President has no intention of getting rid of this valuable henchman.

The Mugwump papers are very fond of quoting the Philadelphia Telegraph as a Republican paper. The fact that the Telegraph is opposed to Mr. Blaine while the Pennsylvania Republicans have just unanimously endorsed him for the Presidential nomination shows that it is not in accord with the Republicans. The truth is the Telegraph is more than two thirds Mugwump and would be entirely so only it cannot quite go to their free trade theories!

Among those looked by the Democrats for speeches during the Ohio campaign are Senator Voorhees and ex-Senator McDonald, of Indiana, Senator Blackburn and the Pennsylvania Corliss, of Kentucky, Hon. S. Cox, Col. John L. Fellows and Gen. Thomas Ewing, of New York, Senator Kenna, of West Virginia, Senator Daniel of Virginia, Senator Vining, of North Carolina. This fall after the people of Ohio have rolled up a handsome Republican majority the Democratic papers will spring the same old chestnut about Ohio being a Republican State and that the Democrats made little effort to corrupt the election.

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Admiral I will cut the Gordian knot of the red tape that has equally prevented our Executive Government from making up its own mind as to whether our fishermen have any rights and from furnishing any information as to the conditions and circumstances under which our vessels are liable under the Canadian construction, to be seized and subjected to penalties. That he thus rendered a public service entirely consistent with his duty as an officer and his zeal for the honor and welfare of his country, has become recognized as soon and as widely as the facts have been made known, and in the same measure has increased the feeling of disapprovement of the remarkable action of the Secretary in administering such a report through the public press to an officer who has spent almost half a century in the honorable service of his country.

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